

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 17 with the following revised paragraph:

As shown in FIG. 4, a conventional cup-and-core assembly 300 has a core member ~~100~~ 200 having an enlarged head or flange 201. The flange 201 is formed before the core member 200 is press-fitted in a metal cup 100. The flange-forming process involves the use of oil. Accordingly, it may occur that the oil is caught between the core member 200 and the metal cup 100 during press-fitting operation and eventually varies the thermal value of a spark plug in which a center electrode formed from the cup-and-core assembly 300 is incorporated.